

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL.
NAZARIO SERRANO, USMC

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Lance Cpl. Nazario Serrano, USMC who was killed by enemy action on January 30 in Anbar province, Iraq. He was killed as a result of being struck in the chest by small-arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Serrano, 20, from Irving, Texas was expected to return home from Iraq in only two weeks to meet his newly born son Landon Heath and marry his highschool sweetheart, Amanda Story. Serrano had never seen his son, but only saw pictures of his new son by e-mail. I grieve with the Serrano friends and family over their loss. He gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country and the United States Marine Corps.

Lance Cpl. Serrano was a 2003 graduate of Irving High School, which is also where his two surviving brothers, Javier and Daniel, now attend. Previously, he attended Austin Middle School in Irving, and enjoyed basketball, hunting, and riding his motorcycle. May God bless the memory of Lance Cpl. Serrano and comfort his family during this difficult time. I will be keeping his memory, and his family in my thoughts and prayers.

BASKETBALL CATAMOUNTS— STANDOUTS ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, like all of us who live in Vermont, and many millions across the nation, I was thrilled when the underdog Catamounts of the University of Vermont defeated Syracuse in the opening round of the 2005 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Syracuse was a national power; the nucleus of its team won the national championship two years earlier. Its players were accomplished, well-coached and a credit to college basketball.

But the University of Vermont team rose to the challenge, coming from behind in the final minutes of both regulation play and overtime. Led by the greatest basketball player to come out of Vermont, Taylor Coppenrath of West Barnet, Vermont the Catamounts showed how teamwork and a tenacious defense could elevate a team to national prominence. During the regular season Coppenrath was the second leading Division I scorer in the nation with 25.7 points per game, and for the third straight year he was the player of the year in the America East conference. He was joined on the team by T. J. Sorrentine, a sharp-shooting point guard (fifth in the nation with 3.6 three-point field goals per game) whose passion and precision shooting define the Catamounts. He too has been an America East player of the year and has three first-team selections to his credit. The international contingent made up of Germain Mopa Njila of Cameroon, whose career scoring high of 20 points on 9 of 10

shooting was the mainstay of the Catamount offense against Syracuse; Martin Klimes of the Czech Republic, whose smothering defense held All-American Hakim Warrick in check, and Canadian David Hehn, who selflessly threw himself into the Cats' tight defense and patient and exceptionally effective passing game.

It was talent and tenacity. All five Vermont starters played at least 40 minutes, and Klimes and Coppenrath never had a rest on the bench at all. The Catamounts stuck with a game plan devised by Coach Tom Brennan and Associate Head Coach Jesse Agel, which called for ball control, constant passing and careful work against Syracuse's famed 2-3 zone until a shot opened up.

No one should be surprised that they show poised intelligence on the hardwood. The UVM basketball team had a 3.09 grade point average (GPA) for the fall semester. The starting five has a cumulative GPA, including all the courses the players have taken in their time at UVM, above 3.0. This is an exceptionally high and rare statistic for basketball teams that play at the highest level, some of which graduate less than half their teams members. Martin Klimes, majoring in business, has a 3.82 GPA, one of the highest averages in his entire college. Geramin Mopa Njila, a computer science and information systems major, has a GPA of 3.21. Sociology major T.J. Sorrentine averages 2.75, while David Hehn has a stellar 3.57 GPA in business. Wooden Award finalist Taylor Coppenrath averaged 2.80 in secondary education and competed at the elite level in basketball, while student teaching in the math department at Colchester High School.

Their academic performance is exceptional for UVM athletes. The state university is as dedicated to graduating student athletes as it is to fielding fine teams (its men's hockey team recently played in the ECAC Final Four, and its ski team was second in the nation at the NCAA national championships). The overall GPA for student athletes is 3.08, which is higher than the GPA for the student body as a whole.

The Catamounts captured the attention and the heart of the entire nation. To the wonderful, inspired members of that team, and their dedicated coaches, the state of Vermont sends its salutations. Perhaps no one can say it better than their retiring coach, Tom Brennan, who said these words after losing to Michigan State in the second round, "We can't thank everyone enough on what the support has meant to us. We gave more back than what we took and what we did this weekend was the thrill of a lifetime. It was the greatest ride that I could ever, ever have had. You know you're in a very special place when your realities outweigh your dreams. And that's where I am." For all of us in Vermont, for one special night, reality did outweigh dreams. Thanks, Catamounts.

CONGRATULATING RABBI MERLE E. SINGER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I am both honored and privileged to congratulate Rabbi

Merle E. Singer on the occasion of his retirement.

Rabbi Singer has been at Temple Beth El of Boca Raton for 26 years. Before that, he served at Beth Or in Philadelphia and Temple Sinai in Washington, D.C. He has a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from the University of Cincinnati, and a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Singer was ordained as a Reform Rabbi in June 1966.

Rabbi Singer is one of the warmest, most charitable and caring people I know. I have personally seen the extraordinary kindness, determination and virtue that Rabbi Singer demonstrates everyday in all aspects of his life. As those of us privileged to know him can attest, Rabbi Singer is deeply devoted to his family, congregants and community. For the past 26 years he has been a religious guide and educator to his congregants serving them in every aspect of synagogue life. Under his leadership, Temple Beth El has grown to be one of the largest Reform synagogues, where the congregation maintains an unwavering commitment to Jewish values and the importance of a Jewish identity.

Beyond the synagogue, Rabbi Singer is one of the most respected people in the community, promoting the highest form of tzedakah by bringing people of different faiths together to help those who need it most. He has started programs like Shared Care, which connects impaired seniors with members in the community—and in the process has become a true community leader. His civic involvement in everything from the United Way to the Boca Raton Community Hospital, exemplifies the principle of tikkun olam. Rabbi Singer's legacy in South Florida already extends far beyond Temple Beth El and will endure for many years.

I wish Rabbi Singer much continued success and good health.

HONORING JANICE GRUENDEL AS SHE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE ACES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the ACES Education Foundation as they recognize the outstanding contributions of a dedicated member of our community and my good friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel. Janice has spent a lifetime working with children, focusing much of her time and effort on early childhood education.

A psychologist by training, Janice has dedicated her professional career to improving the environment in which our children learn and grow. After receiving her Ph.D. from Yale University, Janice served as Deputy Commissioner with the Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services, the Department of Mental Retardation, and the Department of Public Health. She moved on to become the Vice President of Education and Technology at Rabbit Ears Productions, Inc. and was co-executive producer of the Emmy-nominated public broadcast documentary, "Mommy, Who'll Take Care of Me?"

In 1995, Janice, along with Shelly Geballe, Judy Soloman, and Nancy Lustman, embarked on a very special project founding

Connecticut Voices for Children. CT Voices is a research-based public education and advocacy organization that works statewide to promote the well-being of Connecticut's children, youth and families. Janice and the co-founders of CT Voices have built this very special organization around a staff with education and experience in education, law, health, business, government and the non-profit sector. With such comprehensive vision and talented staff, CT Voices has been able to provide new and unique insights into the impact of policy and issues on today's youth and families. In fact, in just under a decade, CT Voices has become a leading voice in public policy with political leaders, the media, other advocacy groups and others regularly turning to them for public and budget analysis. The outstanding success of CT Voices allows this organization to have a real impact on public policy—a reflection of the remarkable efforts of Janice and her co-founders.

Currently serving as the Senior Advisor on Early Childhood for Connecticut's Governor M. Jodi Rell, Janice's expertise in early childhood education is recognized throughout the state. In addition to this role, she also continues as a lecturer at the Yale University Child Study Center and acts as a part-time senior consulting fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children. The multitude of work that Janice has done on behalf of our youngest citizens has gone a long way in increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and its positive impact on our children.

I am proud to stand today to join her husband, Herb; her three sons and daughters-in-law, David and Liz, Darren and Yoya, and Stephen and Amy; her grandchildren, Alisia, Elena, Vivian, and Mateo, as well as all of the family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered in congratulating my dear friend, Dr. Janice Gruendel as she is honored by the ACES Education Foundation. Her many years of dedication and commitment has left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut and a legacy that will continue to make a difference in the lives of our young people for generations to come.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE LIFE AND WORK OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my profound sympathy for the passing of Pope John Paul II, a man whom I'm certain will go down in history as one of history's greatest leaders.

This Pope's remarkable life—a tremendous intellect, limitless compassion and deep spirituality—was the foundation of his forceful teaching about the inherent dignity of every human being. Shaped by his experiences under Nazi and Communist regimes, the Pope taught us that this dignity is the first principle from which all others derive, calling on us to respond to the cry of the poor and to protect the weakest among us.

Pope John Paul II taught us, by his words and example, that we should have the "love of preference for the poor," that requires us to

respond to the needs of the weakest among us. As he wrote in "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" in 1987, "[T]his love of the preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future."

Human dignity, he also reminded us, should never be eclipsed by oppressive political systems, which deny the individuality of the person. Nor should the dignity of the human person be destroyed using tools of what he so appropriately called the "Culture of Death," such as legalized abortion or physician-assisted suicide.

Pope John Paul II spoke to the world about the importance of every human person, and he specially addressed the responsibility of our nation during his visit to the United States in 1995. I am submitting this statement for the RECORD, in which the Pope so eloquently called on us to live up to our democratic responsibilities, reminding us that, "[d]emocracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life."

The freedom of this country can only be understood within context of the moral responsibilities of our democracy. As we mark the passing of this tremendous man, I believe we should remember his exhortation to the United States: "At the center of the moral vision of your founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development."

"I say to you again, America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death."

May God grant Pope John Paul II eternal light and peace, and may his personal witness to faith, hope and courage remain in our hearts and those of all the world.

STATEMENT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES GIVEN ON OCTOBER 8, 1995

Dear Mr. Vice-President, Dear Friends, Dear People of America,

As I take leave of the United States, I wish to express my deep and abiding gratitude to many people.

To you, Mr. Vice-President, for graciously coming here to say goodbye. To the Bishops of the Dioceses I have visited and the many people, who have worked so hard to make this visit a success. To the public authorities, to the police and security personnel, who have ensured efficiency, good order and safety.

To the representatives of the various Churches and Ecclesial Communities, who have received me with great good will; to Americans of all races, colors and creeds, who have followed with interest and attention the events of these days; to the men and women of the communications media, who have labored diligently to bring the words and images of this visit to millions of people; and especially to all those who, personally present or from afar, have supported me with their prayers.

I express to the Catholic community of the United States my heartfelt thanks! In the

words of Saint Paul: "I give thanks to my God every time I think of you—which is constantly in every prayer I utter" (Phil 1:3).

I say this, too, to the United States of America: today, in our world as it is, many other nations and peoples look to you as the principal model and pattern for their own advancement in democracy. But democracy needs wisdom. Democracy needs virtue, if it is not to turn against everything that it is meant to defend and encourage. Democracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes. Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life. But these values themselves must have an objective content. Otherwise they correspond only to the power of the majority, or the wishes of the most vocal. If an attitude of skepticism were to succeed in calling into question even the fundamental principles of the moral law, the democratic system itself would be shaken in its foundations (cf. *Evangelium Vitae*, 70).

The United States possesses a safeguard, a great bulwark, against this happening. I speak of your founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. These documents are grounded in and embody unchanging principles of the natural law whose permanent truth and validity can be known by reason, for it is the law written by God in human hearts (cf. Rom 2:25).

At the center of the moral vision of your founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and at all stages of development. I say to you again, America, in the light of your own tradition: love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death.

At the end of your National Anthem, one finds these words: "Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust!'" America: may your trust always be in God and in none other. And then, "The star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave".

Thank you, and God bless you all!

NOMINEES FOR KENTUCKY NEW ERA/ROTARY ACADEMIC ALL STAR TEAM

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Kentucky New Era/Rotary Academic All Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based on their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extracurricular activities (both community based and school-related), employment history, and an autobiographical essay.